REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 7-9, 11 and 12 are amended and claim 2 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Losch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,054,870); and claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yoshimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,757,989). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action does not reject claim 2 over Losch. Accordingly, claim 2 is patentable over Losch. Independent claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12 are amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. Thus, these claims are patentable over Losch. As such, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Losch is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, Yoshimura fails to disclose or suggest an optical wiring circuit that includes at least a light diffusing member for diffusing a light beam disposed between a planer optical wave guide and one of the first end and/or the second end, as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12.

Yoshimura teaches an optical circuit system which removes at least a portion of a light power source corresponding to at least one type of output voltage of an IC board or opto-

electric element and produces an optical signal wherein the left power source is an optical wave guide into which light has been introduced (Abstract).

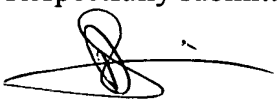
The Office Action states that "the diffraction grating diffuses a light beam as claimed" (Office Action, page 3, lines 20-21). However, the diffraction grating 43 and 47 (Figs. 7 and 8) in Yoshimiya exemplify an optical amplification circuit. Moreover, element 18 in Yoshimiya only extracts a part of light propagating in the light source 5 to the wave guide 1a by the difference of the index of refraction (Col. 17, lines 19-30). The diffraction grating 43 does not diffuse a light beam as claimed, but instead diffracts the light amplified by the amplification wave guide 42. Contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Yoshimiya does not disclose the light diffusing member of the claimed invention.

For at least the reasons above, Yoshimura fails to disclose each and every feature of independent claims 1, 7, 9, 11 and 12. As such, withdrawal of the rejections of these claims, and their dependent claims, under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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